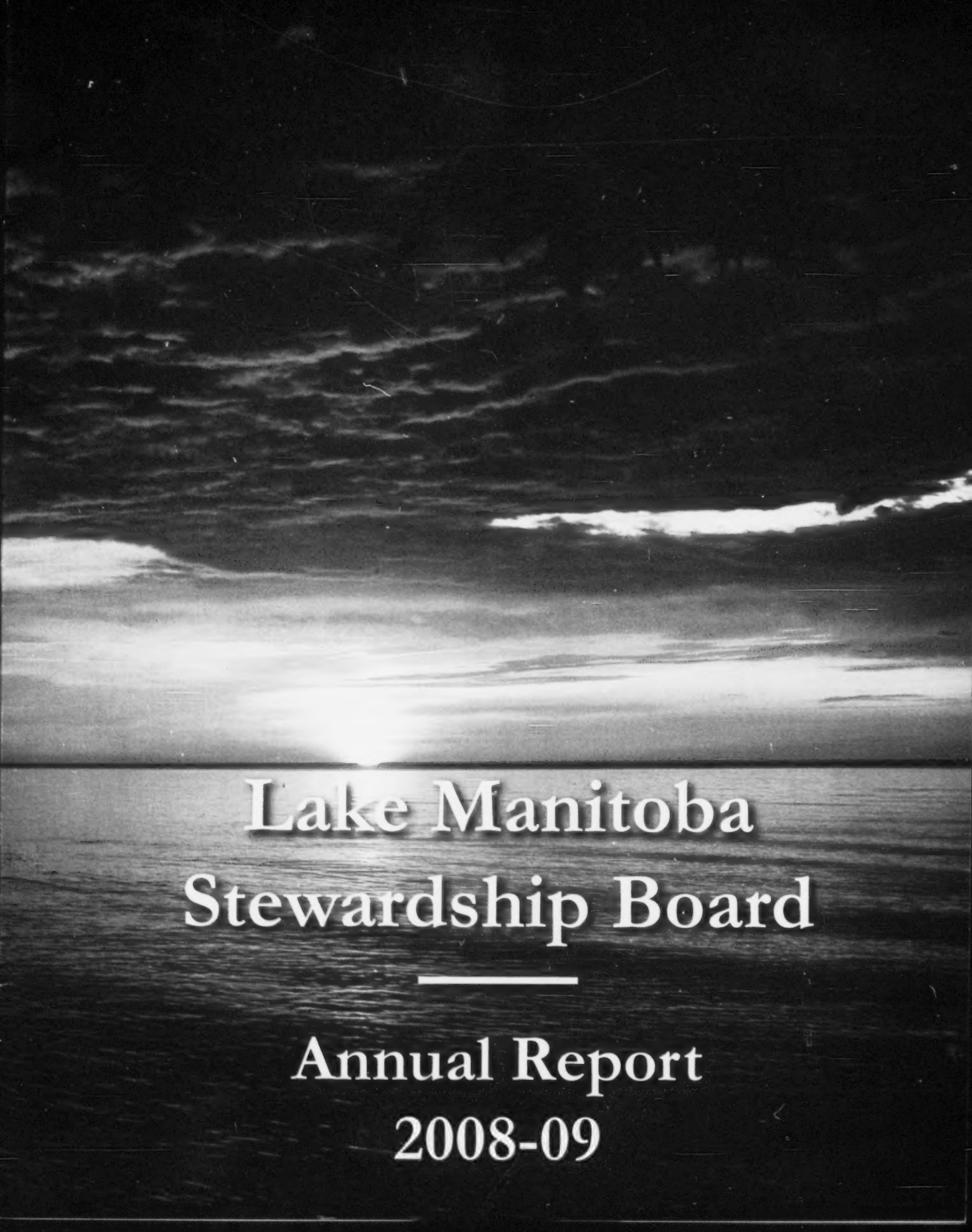

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Annual Report 2008-09

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

21 December 2009

The Honourable Christine Melnick
Minister, Manitoba Water Stewardship
314 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Melnick,

I am pleased to submit a report describing the work of the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board from May 2008 to December 2009 inclusive.

Sincerely,

Gordon Goldsborough

Dr. L. Gordon Goldsborough
Chair, Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

cc: Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board Composition 2
Mission Statement 2
Terms of Reference 2
Board Subcommittee 3
Meetings 4
Board Activities 5
1. Web site 5
2. Reports 6
3. Presentations and Meetings 8
4. External Liaison 8
5. Other Activities 10
Summary of Work 11
1. Foster Dialogue 11
2. Communicate with Manitoba Water Stewardship 11
3. Advocate Monitoring and Research 12
4. Recommend Remedial Action 12
5. Portage Diversion 12
6. Fisheries Management Plans 12
Financial Report 13

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Annual Report 2008-09

BOARD COMPOSITION

The Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board was formed by the Minister of Water Stewardship, the Honourable Christine Melnick, on 27 February 2007. Its members, each of whom has a three-year term ending on 7 February 2010, are as follows:

Board Member	Location	Descriptor
Gordon Goldsborough *(Chair)*	Winnipeg	University professor & water scientist
Bill Finney *(Vice-Chair)*	Eddystone	Cattle producer & commercial fisher
Dan Coyle	Winnipeg	Cottage owner
Tracy Filion	Grahamdale	Farmer & commercial fisher
Harold Fleming	Meadow Portage	Farmer & commercial fisher
Allan Gaudry	St. Laurent	Commercial fisher
Randy Helgason	Ashern	Commercial fisher
Bob Harrison	Winnipeg	Hydrologist (Manitoba Water Stewardship)
David Milani	Boggy Creek	Fisheries consultant
Gary Morlock	Winnipeg	Sport hunter and fisher
Linda Schroedter	Moosehorn	Cattle producer
Donald Smith	Langruth	Farmer & commercial fisher
Norman Traverse	Lake St. Martin	First Nations & commercial fisher
Rae Trimble-Olson	Portage la Prairie	Farmer & cottage user
Laura Manson	Winnipeg	Technical Secretary (Manitoba Water Stewardship)

Bob Harrison joined the Board formally in early December 2008, although he had been attending meetings informally since the beginning.

Laura Manson resigned as Technical Secretary in December 2009. She will be replaced to the conclusion of the Board's term by Colleen Andreychuk of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

The Board has been nominally based at the Delta Marsh Field Station (University of Manitoba) since our inception. The station was closed by the University in December 2009.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Board's mission is to maintain and enhance the long term health of the Lake Manitoba watershed along with Lake St. Martin, Pineimuta Lake, Fairford River, and Dauphin River to Lake Winnipeg.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue with local interests, municipalities and the Province regarding the management of Lake Manitoba, Lake Pineimuta, Lake St. Martin, and the Fairford and Dauphin rivers, to solicit, as required, public input related to these concerns, and to communicate with the public on a regular basis.

2. To communicate with the Minister on an ongoing basis with regard to water levels on Lake Manitoba, Lake Pineimuta, and Lake St. Martin, including the operation and maintenance of the Fairford River Water Control Structure and the associated fish ladder, and to recommend appropriate seasonal flows to be maintained in the Fairford and Dauphin rivers insofar as this is reasonably possible.

3. To advocate long-term monitoring and research on water levels and the health of Lake Manitoba, Lake Pineimuta, and Lake St. Martin, including coastal marshlands along these water bodies, to be carried out by the appropriate agencies and report on the results to the Minister. This should include all aspects of water quality, fisheries, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, shoreline erosion, marshland rejuvenation, impacts on First Nations and other communities, and such other matters as deemed advisable by the Committee or by the Minister.

4. To investigate, and if considered advisable, recommend remedial projects to enhance all aspects of the general health of the lakes, associated marshlands and associated resources and resource uses, as outlined above. In this regard, the Committee shall actively encourage jointly funded private sector / government projects.

5. To provide advice to Manitoba Water Stewardship on the operation of the Portage Diversion to ensure that Lake Manitoba interests are taken into consideration.

6. Review fishery management plans according to the following criteria in order of importance: a) biological sustainability, b) economic viability, and c) social fairness and community benefits. In doing so a more reasoned and fair approach can be developed (i.e. with supporting data / information and fair public values incorporated).

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES

The Board anticipates that matters relating to the stewardship of fisheries will comprise a significant amount of our deliberations in the future, especially in light of our responsibility to evaluate the provincial fishery management plan for Lake Manitoba (Term of Reference #6). To provide guidance to the Board in these discussions, in January 2009, a Fisheries Subcommittee was formed of those members with special expertise in sport or commercial fisheries. Its members are as follows: Milani (Chair), Finney, Fleming, Gaudry, Helgason, Morlock, Smith, Traverse. In November 2009, the Board met with staff of Manitoba Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch to review their framework for plan development and to discuss our role in the preparation of a detailed management plan for Lake Manitoba.

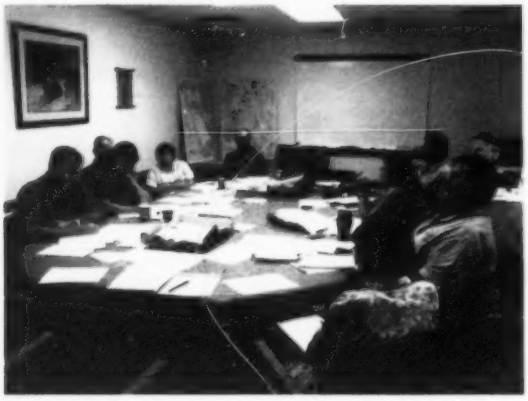
Two *ad hoc* working groups were formed to carry out specific tasks. One group (Goldsborough, Coyle, Harrison, Manson, and Morlock) evaluated submissions in response to our Request For Proposals for the public survey of residents around Lake Manitoba. A second group (Goldsborough, Coyle, Manson) reviewed and revised our draft analysis of demographic data for the area around Lake Manitoba obtained from the 2006 federal census.

MEETINGS

The Board held four types of meetings: regular meetings, subcommittee meetings, special meetings, and public consultations. **Regular meetings** were held at bimonthly intervals, except during the summer when the Board was adjourned. An additional meeting was held in December. Where possible, meetings were held at locations in the Lake Manitoba watershed so Board members could become acquainted with local issues, and so we could hear presentations from conservation districts, municipal councils, and other local groups. **Subcommittee meetings** were held as required by the activity of Board subcommittees (see above), at a location convenient for its members. **Special meetings** were held to address specific tasks, such as the preparation of our Science Report (see below). Finally, **public consultations** were held at specific locations where public input was solicited on specific topics (see below).

Between May 2008 and December 2009, the locations and dates for our meetings were as follows:

Date	Location	Meeting Type
12 May 2008	Delta	Special (Science Report)
23 June 2008	St. Laurent	Regular
24 June 2008	St. Laurent	Special (Science Report)
8 September 2008	Steep Rock	Regular
3 November 2008	Dauphin	Regular
8 December 2008	Winnipeg	Regular
19 January 2009	Lundar	Regular
27 January 2009	Winnipeg	Subcommittee (Survey Report)
5 February 2009	Winnipeg	Subcommittee (Survey Report)
3 March 2009	Ashern	Public consultation
4 March 2009	Lake Manitoba Narrows	Regular
4 March 2009	Eddystone	Public consultation
10 March 2009	St. Laurent	Public consultation
18 March 2009	Portage la Prairie	Public consultation
29 March 2009	Lake Manitoba Narrows	Subcommittee (Fisheries)
5-6 May 2009	Delta	Regular
17 June 2009	Winnipeg	Regular
17 July 2009	Winnipeg	Subcommittee (Census Report)
21 September 2009	Neepawa	Regular
9 November 2009	Portage la Prairie	Regular
1 December 2009	Winnipeg	Subcommittee (Census Report)
14 December 2009	Winnipeg	Regular



Board meetings at Delta Marsh Field Station (left) and Whitemud Watershed Conservation District (right).

BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Board prepared a Work Plan that related our activities to each of our Terms of Reference so we could track the status of work that we undertook. A copy of our most recent Work Plan for 2009-2010 is appended to this Annual Report. A description of our main activities in the period from May 2008 to December 2009 is given below.

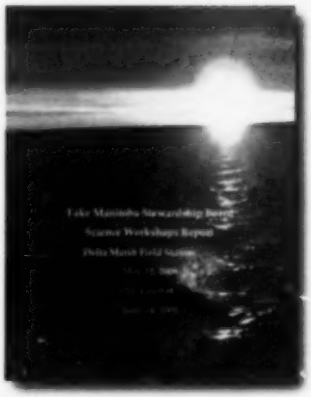
1. Web site

The Board hired Intrinsix, a computer consulting firm based in Winnipeg, to develop and host our web site. The choice was based primarily on the fact that Intrinsix had built a web site for the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board. After meetings with Intrinsix to define our needs, a web site was created at the domains **www.lakemanitoba.ca** and **www.lakemanitoba.org**. Our meeting minutes, reports, and other information can be viewed on the site. Scenic photographs around Lake Manitoba, featured on our web site, were provided by the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale. A logo for the Board was designed for us by the staff of Communications Services Manitoba and approved with minor changes at our meetings in June and September 2008.

We asked to have a public forum on the web site to enable visitors to bring matters to public attention, although this component is still not functional. The Board will be making further changes to the web site.

Intrinsix has provided occasional reports on the traffic to our web site. In March 2009, our web site had 17,920 hits. In July 2009, the total was 7,562 hits.

2. Reports



Science Workshops Report

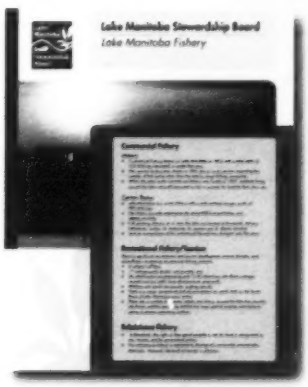
We hosted Science Workshops where we assembled technical experts from a wide range of scientific disciplines to discuss the state of knowledge about Lake Manitoba and to identify gaps in our understanding as a better basis for future lake stewardship. These workshops were held on 12 May 2008 and 24 June 2008, and were facilitated by our Chair.

The fields represented by meeting participants included remote sensing, water quality, water management, fisheries, agriculture, and cottage development.

We prepared a comprehensive report on these meetings which is available on our web site.[1] It identifies established knowledge about Lake Manitoba as well as knowledge gaps which should be addressed by future research work.

Public Consultation Report

We held public consultations to provide information about the Board and to learn about issues of local concern. During March 2009, we hosted meetings in four communities (Ashern, Eddystone, St. Laurent, Portage la Prairie) where we received input in a wide range of areas. These consultations were facilitated by our Chair.



Questions relating to fisheries (especially the use of non-quota species, the need for improved fish rearing facilities, and the possibility of non-winter commercial fishing on Lake Manitoba), effects of provincial infrastructure including the Portage Diversion and the Fairford River Water Control Structure and Fairford Fishway on water quality and quantity, and habitat protection (especially relating to wetlands) were all themes that were recurring in these meetings.

The Board developed a set of informational storyboards on history, water quality, fisheries, agriculture, and other topics, which were displayed during these meetings. Copies of these storyboards are available on our web site along with a thorough report summarizing the meetings.[2]

Resident Survey

After soliciting proposals from consultants, we selected the Winnipeg-based consumer polling firm of Probe Research Inc. to carry out a survey of residents around Lake Manitoba, Lake St. Martin, and Lake Pineimuta. Its objective was to provide baseline documentation of current land use and development activities along the shores of these lakes. These results will provide insight to better understand how this usage may impact water quality and lake health.

[1] www.lakemanitoba.ca/web/documents/FinalLMSBScienceWorkshopsReport-FINAL.pdf

[2] www.lakemanitoba.ca/web/documents/LMSB-storyboards-final.pdf and www.lakemanitoba.org/web/documents/LakeMBPublicMeetingsReport.pdf

A telephone-based survey of property owners situated within one mile of Lake Manitoba, Lake Pineimuta and Lake St. Martin was carried out in March 2009. Our intention was to obtain a representative sample of the property owners. We had unanticipated difficulty in obtaining contact information for residents. Consequently, we acknowledge that the survey probably under-represents the interests of some geographic areas, First Nations, and seasonal residents such as campers and cottage owners. In an effort to address these limitations, we worked actively with the consultants to prepare special surveys for campground operators and First Nations.

Data were obtained in a wide range of topic areas, including a demographic profile of lake residents, their water consumption and wastewater generation patterns, sources of water for drinking and other purposes, conservation practices, use of fertilizers and pesticides, erosion protection methods, perceptions of changes in lake water and beach quality, desired municipal services, nature of agricultural practices, and the level of awareness of the Board and its activities.

A complete report prepared for the Board by Probe Research is available on our web site.[1]

Census Report

The Board compiled a report on the population demographics of communities in the Lake Manitoba watershed, using the 2006 federal census, as a basis for understanding the interests and activities around the lake.

We collected and tabulated data on rural municipalities, incorporated towns and cities, and First Nations around Lake Manitoba. Data pertained to population age structure, language capabilities, the nature of employment, and educational attainment.

This report is available on our web site.

Board members attended public consultations in four communities around Lake Manitoba in March 2009.

[1] www.lakemanitoba.org/web/documents/LakeManitobaStewardshipBoard-AResidents%27SurveyofDevelopmentSurroundingLakeManitoba,LakePineimutaandLakeSt.MartinFinalReport.pdf

3. Presentations and Meetings

Members of the Board (usually the Chair unless otherwise indicated) gave informational presentations on our Terms of Reference and activities to the following groups:

Group	Date	Location
Laurentia Beach Association *(Coyle)*	7 June 2008	St. Laurent
Friends of the Delta Marsh Field Station	9 August 2008	Delta
Manitoba Israel Water Experts Symposium 2008	12 August 2008	Winnipeg
Portage la Prairie Country Club	4 September 2008	Delta
West Interlake Conservation District	23 October 2008	Lundar
Manitoba Naturalists Society	27 October 2008	Winnipeg
Brandon Naturalists Society	26 January 2009	Brandon
Manitoba Wildlife Federation *(Morlock)*	6-7 February 2009	Winnipeg
Manitoba Conservation Districts Association	7 April 2009	Brandon
Delta Beach Association	5 July 2009	Delta
Twin Lakes Beach Association	12 July 2009	St. Laurent
Portage and District Community Foundation	7 October 2009	Portage la Prairie
Crown Corporations Council of Manitoba	23 October 2009	Winnipeg
Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners	24 October 2009	Winnipeg

In addition, we provided information on land use around Delta Marsh to staff of the Portage la Prairie Planning District (20 June 2008) and we participated in media interviews with reporters from the *Winnipeg Free Press*, *Manitoba Co-Operator*, *Portage Daily Graphic*, *Stonewall Argus & Teulon Times*, *Interlake Spectator*, *La Liberte*, and *The Chatterbox*.

4. External Liaison

The following guests attended our regular meetings:

Person	Representing	Meeting Date & Location
Mark Chartrand	Councillor, Rural Municipality of St. Laurent	23 June 2008 (St. Laurent)
Jeff Eastman	Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives	23 June 2008 (St. Laurent)
Frieda Kirpan	Individual	23 June 2008 (St. Laurent)
Kelly McKay	Councillor, Rural Municipality of St. Laurent	23 June 2008 (St. Laurent)
Ed Beamish	Whitetail Walleye	8 September 2008 (Steep Rock)
Malcolm Conly	Environment Canada (Saskatoon)	8 September 2008 (Steep Rock)
Cliff Halaburda	Councillor and Deputy Reeve, RM of Grahamdale	8 September 2008 (Steep Rock)
Mark Lowden	AAE Tech Services	8 September 2008 (Steep Rock)

Eric Olson	Mayor, Peonan Point & member of NW Interlake Water Management Association	8 September 2008 (Steep Rock)
Bobby Bennet	Turtle River Watershed Conservation District	3 November 2008 (Dauphin)
Dwayne Davies	Intermountain Conservation District	3 November 2008 (Dauphin)
John Parenteau	Manitoba Métis Federation	3 November 2008 (Dauphin)
Sid Prowes	Intermountain Conservation District	3 November 2008 (Dauphin)
Jessica Rawluk	Dauphin Herald	3 November 2008 (Dauphin)
Don Stokotelney	Intermountain Sport Fish Enhancement Group	3 November 2008 (Dauphin)
James Welbourne	Intermountain Conservation District	3 November 2008 (Dauphin)
Darryl Chudobiak	Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans	8 December 2008 (Winnipeg)
Ron Kaatz	Manitoba Water Stewardship	8 December 2008 (Winnipeg)
Wanda McFadyen	Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba	8 December 2008 (Winnipeg)
Dave Olson	Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishermen's Association	8 December 2008 (Winnipeg)
Don Sexton	Ducks Unlimited Canada	8 December 2008 (Winnipeg)
Neil Brandstrom	West Interlake Conservation District	19 January 2009 (Lundar)
Lance Kennedy	West Interlake Conservation District	19 January 2009 (Lundar)
Ann Melnichuk	Manager, West Interlake Conservation District	19 January 2009 (Lundar)
Doug Oliver	West Interlake Conservation District	19 January 2009 (Lundar)
Earl Zotter	West Interlake Conservation District	19 January 2009 (Lundar)
Rosemary Fletcher	Director of Operations, Probe Research	5 February 2009 (Winnipeg)
Dennis Giesler	Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation	17 June 2009 (Winnipeg)
Rob Cann	Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Water Stewardship	21 September 2009 (Neepawa)
Joe O'Connor	Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Water Stewardship	21 September 2009 (Neepawa)

Wes Pankratz	Manager, Whitemud Watershed Conservation District	21 September 2009 (Neepawa)
Barb Scaife	Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Water Stewardship	21 September 2009 (Neepawa)
Ian Wishart	President, Keystone Agricultural Producers	9 November 2009 (Portage la Prairie)
Cal Cuthbert	Ducks Unlimited Canada	14 December 2009 (Winnipeg)

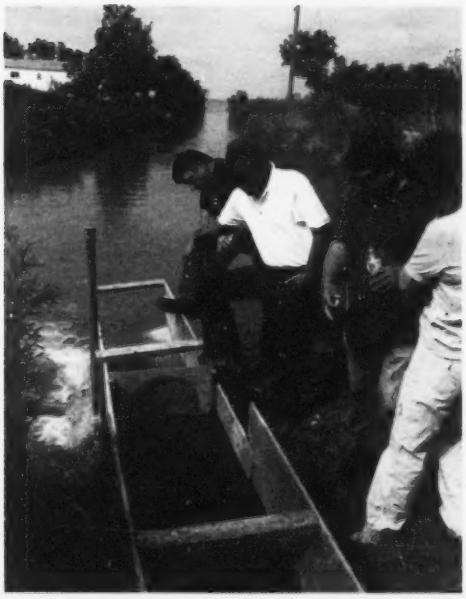
5. Other Activities

The Board receives a report about water levels on Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis, and flows in the Fairford and Dauphin Rivers, at each of our regular meetings. We were consulted in January 2009 and November 2009 by the staff of Manitoba Water Stewardship regarding their operation of the Fairford Water Control Structure.

The Board is monitoring studies for the Lake Manitoba watershed and anticipates providing feedback on them when consultant reports are submitted for the Shoal Lake Water Management Study and the Fairford Fishway Evaluation Study.

Board members suited up for a tour of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation's fish processing plant in Winnipeg.

The Board went on several field tours. On 23 June 2008, we toured the fish rearing facility at St. Laurent and observed the release of pickerel fingerlings into Lake Manitoba. We were given a boat tour of the limestone cliffs at Steep Rock and cottage development along the shoreline on 8 September 2008. We toured the fish processing facility of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation on 17 June 2009.



In February 2009, the Board provided a letter of support to Ducks Unlimited Canada for its application to the RBC Leadership Grant Program on behalf of its Broughton Creek project.

The Board was invited to participate in the Westlake Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) process by the Alonsa Conservation District beginning in Fall 2009. David Milani was selected as a Board representative on its project management committee, and has reported on the initial stages of this process.

Board members watched as walleye fingerlings raised in the St. Laurent rearing ponds made their way to Lake Manitoba.

The matter of marketing for carp and other underutilized fish species has been discussed at various Board meetings. In November 2009, our Chair met with Dwight Williamson (Manitoba Water Stewardship) and three commercial fishers from Lake Manitoba where we had a discussion related to the activities of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and other matters of concern.

The Board discussed other matters pertaining to Lake Manitoba, such as the cleanup of lost fishing nets that have accumulated around the shores and are posing hazards to boating and swimming. We are also maintaining dialogue with the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board regarding public communications strategies and other matters of mutual interest.

SUMMARY OF WORK

The Board has done considerable work under its Terms of Reference during the three-year period of its operations, summarized below:

1. Foster Dialogue

Action Items	Status
Hold Board meetings at various locations in the Lake Manitoba watershed	Ongoing
Attend meetings of local organizations	Ongoing
Engaged in communication with agricultural groups	Ongoing
Prepare a report on public open houses	Completed
Delegate Board members as representatives on local initiatives such as IWMP development	Ongoing
Hold a meeting in a First Nation community	Pending
Review lake management plans for Lake Manitoba in consultation with the Manitoba Fisheries Branch	Ongoing
Provide copies of Board reports to interested organizations and persons	Ongoing
Investigate future survey opportunities, possibly in partnership with other organizations	Ongoing
Prepare work plan for 2009-2010 fiscal year	Completed
Maintain web site	Ongoing
Develop a communications strategy in consultation with the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board	Ongoing

2. Communicate with Manitoba Water Stewardship

Action Items	Status
Review and comment on operation of Fairford Water Control Structure	Ongoing
Become informed on past studies of the Fairford Fishway	Ongoing
Maintain dialogue and review report of the Fairford Fishway Working Group	Ongoing

The cover photo of Lake Manitoba is provided courtesy of Melanie Guigueno & Delta Marsh Field Station (University of Manitoba). All other photos are by G. Goldsborough.

3. *Advocate Monitoring and Research*

Action Items	Status
Review watershed resident survey to identify follow-up actions	Ongoing
Prepare report on population demographics using 2006 Canada census	Completed
Prepare report on Science Workshops on knowledge gaps	Completed
Review report on Shoal Lakes Water Management Study	Pending
Advocate for further water quality monitoring pending outcome of graduate student theses	Ongoing

4. *Recommend Remedial Action*

Action Items	Status
Identify remedial issues using reports arising from our resident survey, public open houses, and science workshops	Ongoing
Prioritize remedial actions for inclusion in our 2010-2011 Annual Report	Ongoing
Support good land use practices via the Environmental Farm Plan Program	Ongoing
Receive updates on fish rearing pond operations at St. Laurent	Ongoing

5. *Portage Diversion*

Action Items	Status
Review graduate thesis on water quality modelling for Lake Manitoba	Pending
Evaluate the impact of the Portage Diversion on water quality in the south basin of Lake Manitoba	Pending

6. *Fisheries Management Plans*

Action Items	Status
Form a fisheries subcommittee	Completed
Review and provide advice on a fisheries management plan for Lake Manitoba	Ongoing
Conduct a literature review on methods for monitoring fish passage through the Fairford Fishway	Pending
Encourage municipalities and other groups to investigate ways of building fish rearing ponds	Pending

The latter two action items under Term of Reference #6 are under review as to the necessity of their being undertaken by our Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following costs are associated with the operation and work of the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board for the 20-month reporting period from 1 May 2008 to 31 December 2009 inclusive.

Budget category	Total
Salary and benefits	$43,656
Meetings	$31,251
Communications	$6,717
Office and web site	$11,680
Professional services	$13,260
Conference fees	$368
Total	**$106,931**

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board
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Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
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